



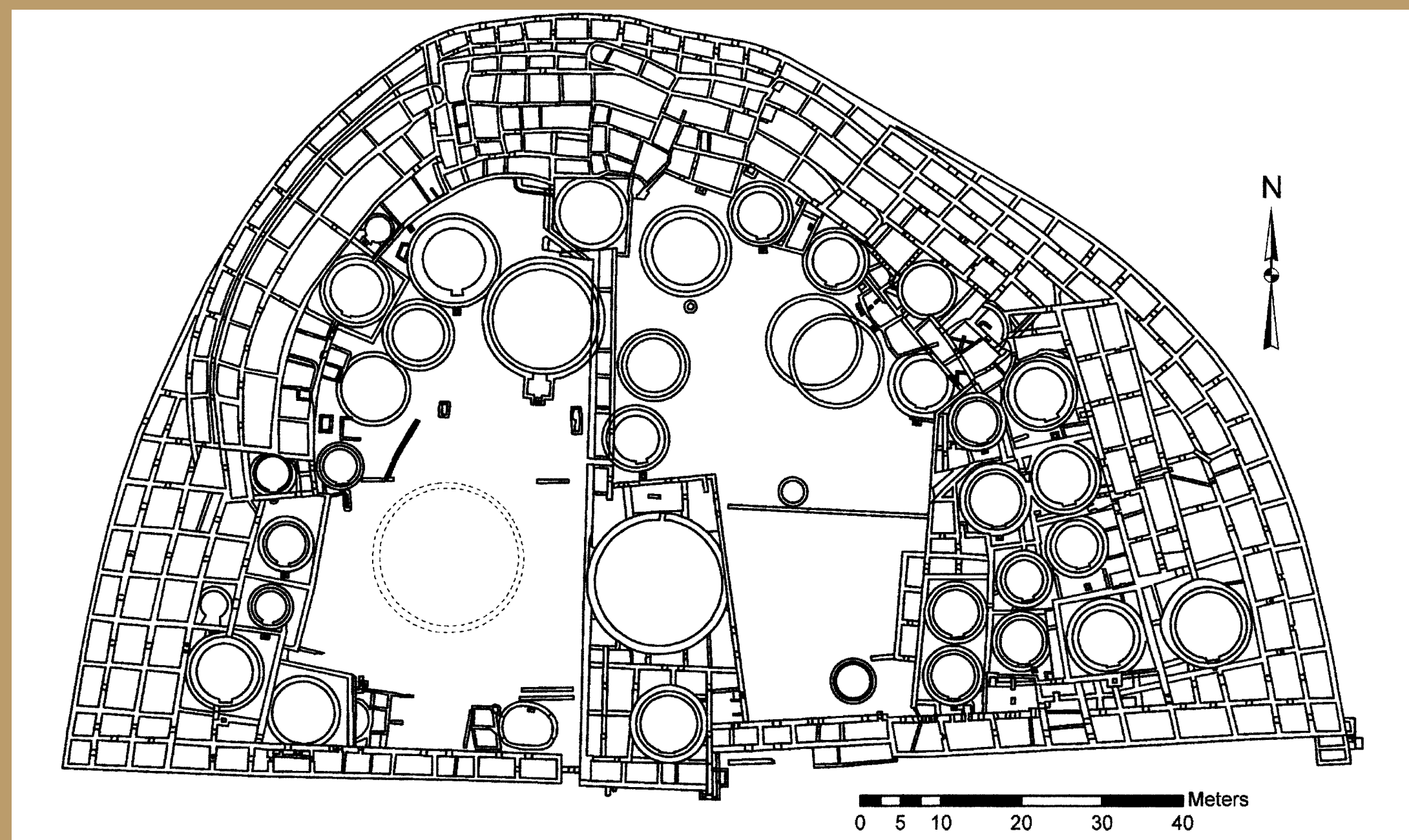
Pueblo Bonito

Archaeologists call Pueblo Bonito a “Chacoan great house.” This monumental public building served surrounding communities and the region when Chaco was a major center of Puebloan culture between A.D. 850 and 1150.

This building embraced many roles. Those functions included ceremony, administration, trading, storage, hospitality, communications, astronomy, and burial of the honored dead. Only a small portion seems to have served as living quarters.

From the remnant walls and foundations, try to imagine the building in use. More than 600 rooms towered four and five stories above the valley floor, covering 3 acres. The building’s unique D-shaped geometry enclosed two plazas with dozens of ceremonial kivas. Straight avenues linked the building with nearby and distant great houses.

The trail is $\frac{1}{3}$ mile long. Watch for low doorways and drop-offs near kivas.



Architectural plan view of Pueblo Bonito



Pueblo Bonito as it may have appeared in the early A.D. 1100s